Mandala Fanfare

for percussion and any number of pairs of instruments

by Daniel Corral

2008

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Commissioned by Machine Project
for the Inaugural Santa Monica Glow Festival
and premiered on the Santa Monica Pier Ferris Wheel

PERCUSSION

The percussion maintains a constant eighth note pulse throughout (this is not notated in the score). Improvised accents and added subdivisions of that pulse, etc. are OK. However, maintaining a consistent eighth note pulse is paramount. Instrumentation and the number of percussionists are open (EX: it could be tabla, 2 drumsets, cowbell, agogo bells and talking drum, Mahler box, etc.)

Besides the percussion, there should be at least two of every instrument (EX: 2 trumpets, 2 clarinets, 2 guitars, etc.). One player from each pair plays the top staff, while the other plays the bottom staff.

BEGINNING

The piece begins with only the percussion, who set up the eighth note pulse. Other instruments join in with the first pattern, one at a time and rhythmically staggered. All players lock into the percussion's eighth note pulse, and should be staggered so no two players are in unison.

SWITCHING PATTERNS

Each numbered pattern repeats until the next one is somehow cued (in the premiere performance, players used stopwatches and a new pattern began every 30 seconds). When a new pattern is cued, it is unnecessary to immediately switch. If desired, it is OK to continue repeating the current pattern. It is up to the player's discretion when to move on, but everyone should be playing the current pattern or the pattern that precedes it (EX: if pattern 6 is cued, everyone should be playing pattern 5 or 6. When pattern 7 is cued, everyone should be playing pattern 6 or 7). In all cases, completely finish the current pattern before moving on to the new one.

BREATHING

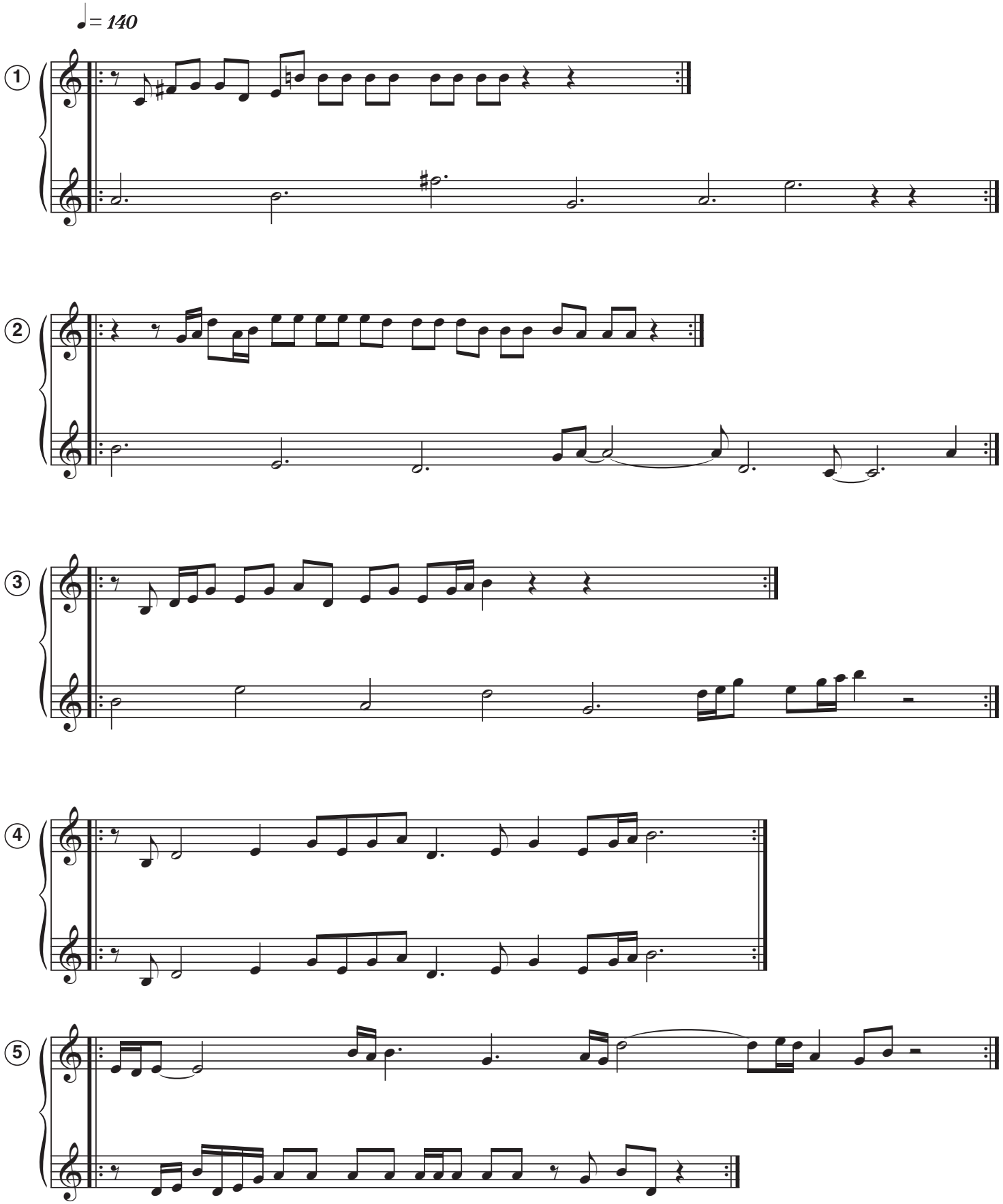
Wind and brass players can breath when they need to, feeling free to add a pause between repetitions of each cell if needed. Other musicians can do the same.

ENDING

Once a player has played all of the patterns, they can stop and tacet until everyone has finished. These individual endings should be staggered so that the sound gradually thins out. Once everyone else has stopped, the percussion should stop as well.

Score

MANDALA FANFARE

Daniel Corral

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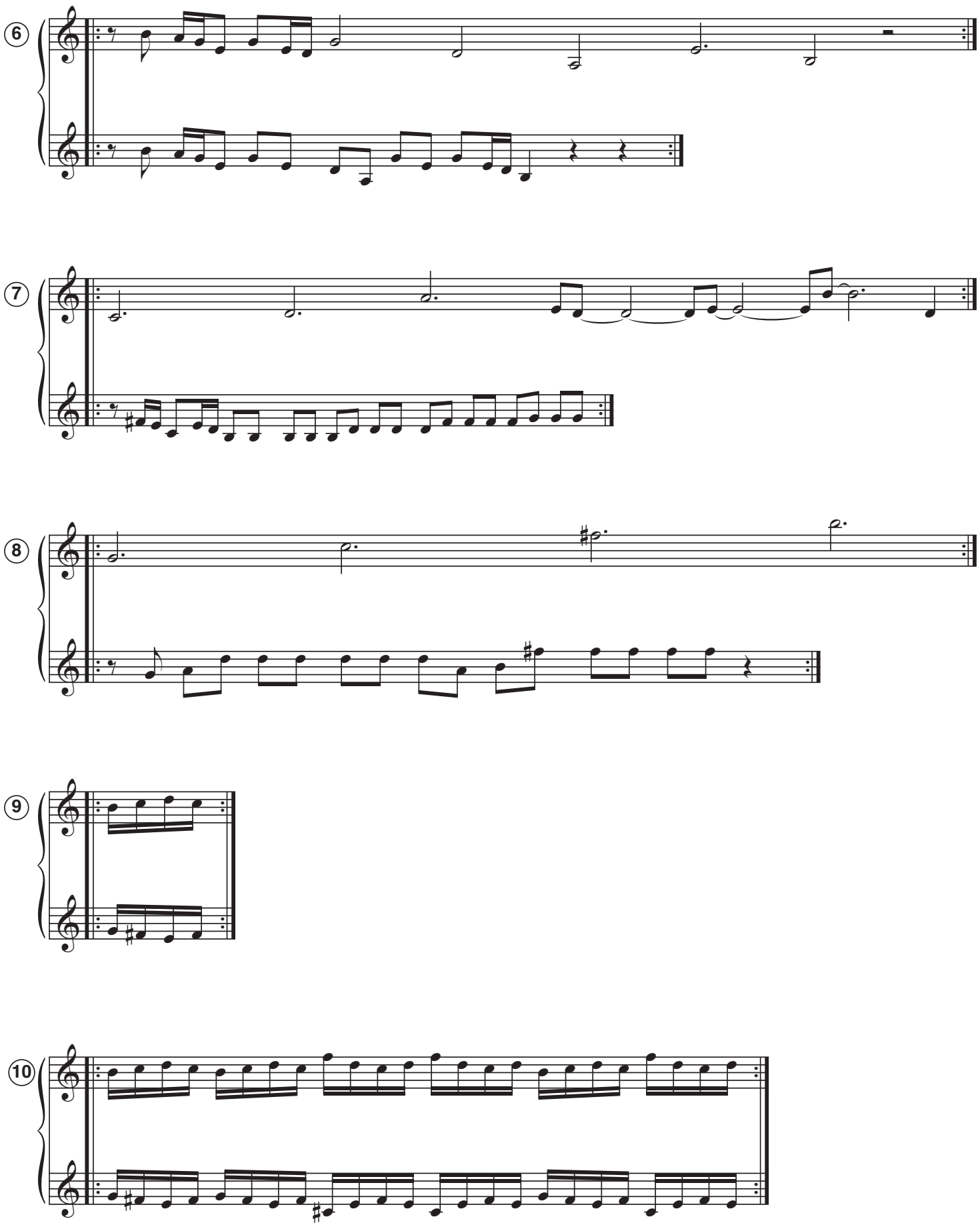
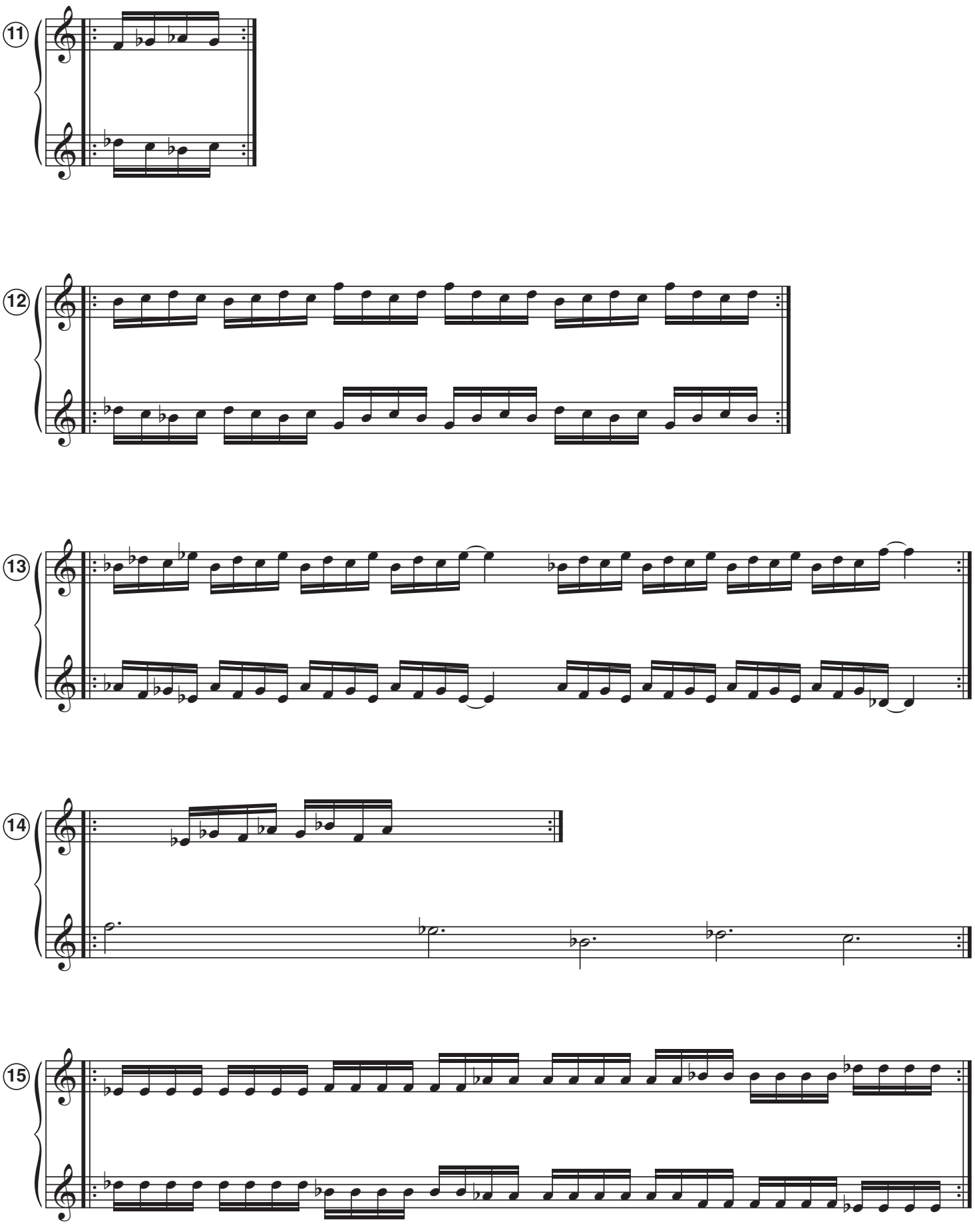
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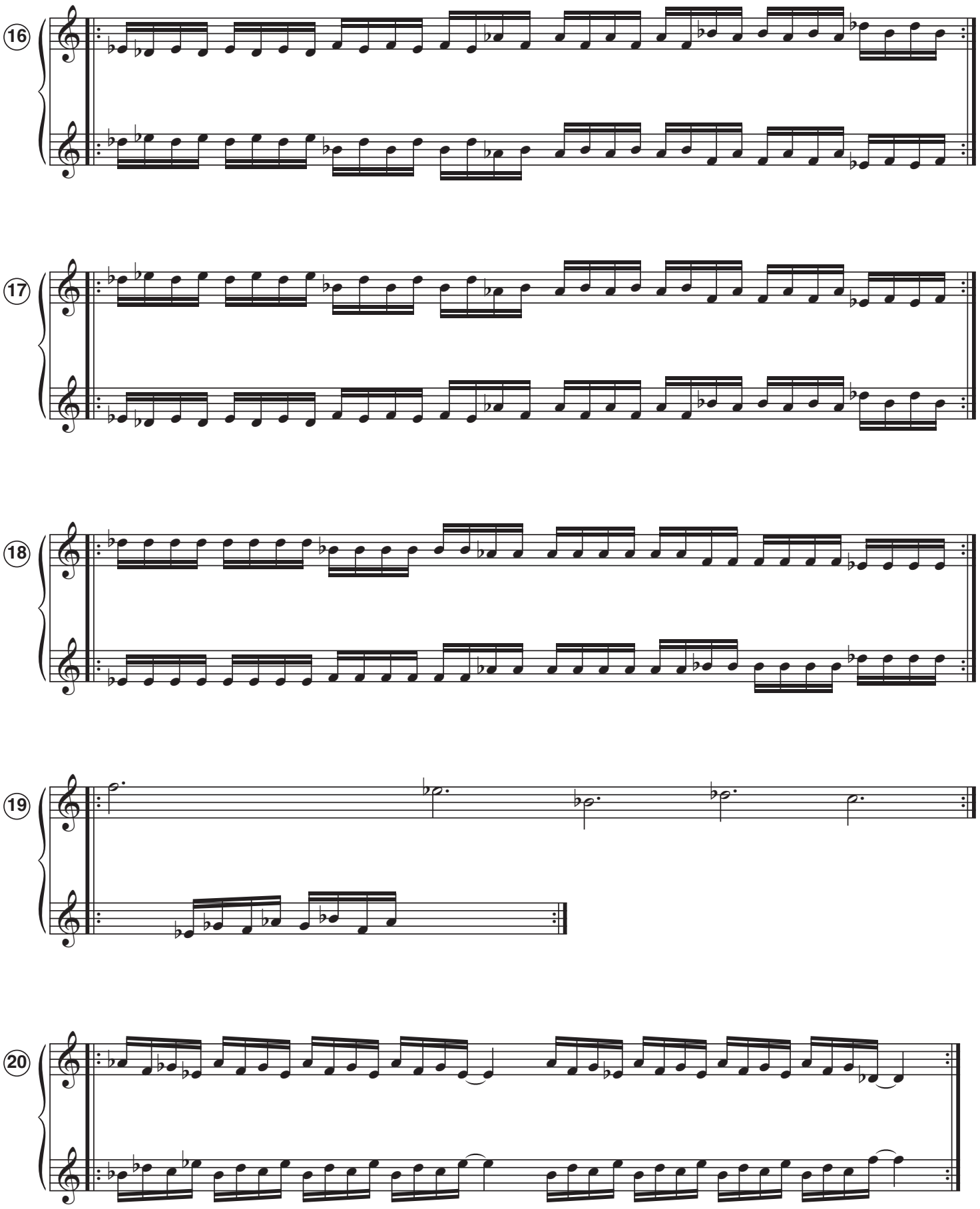
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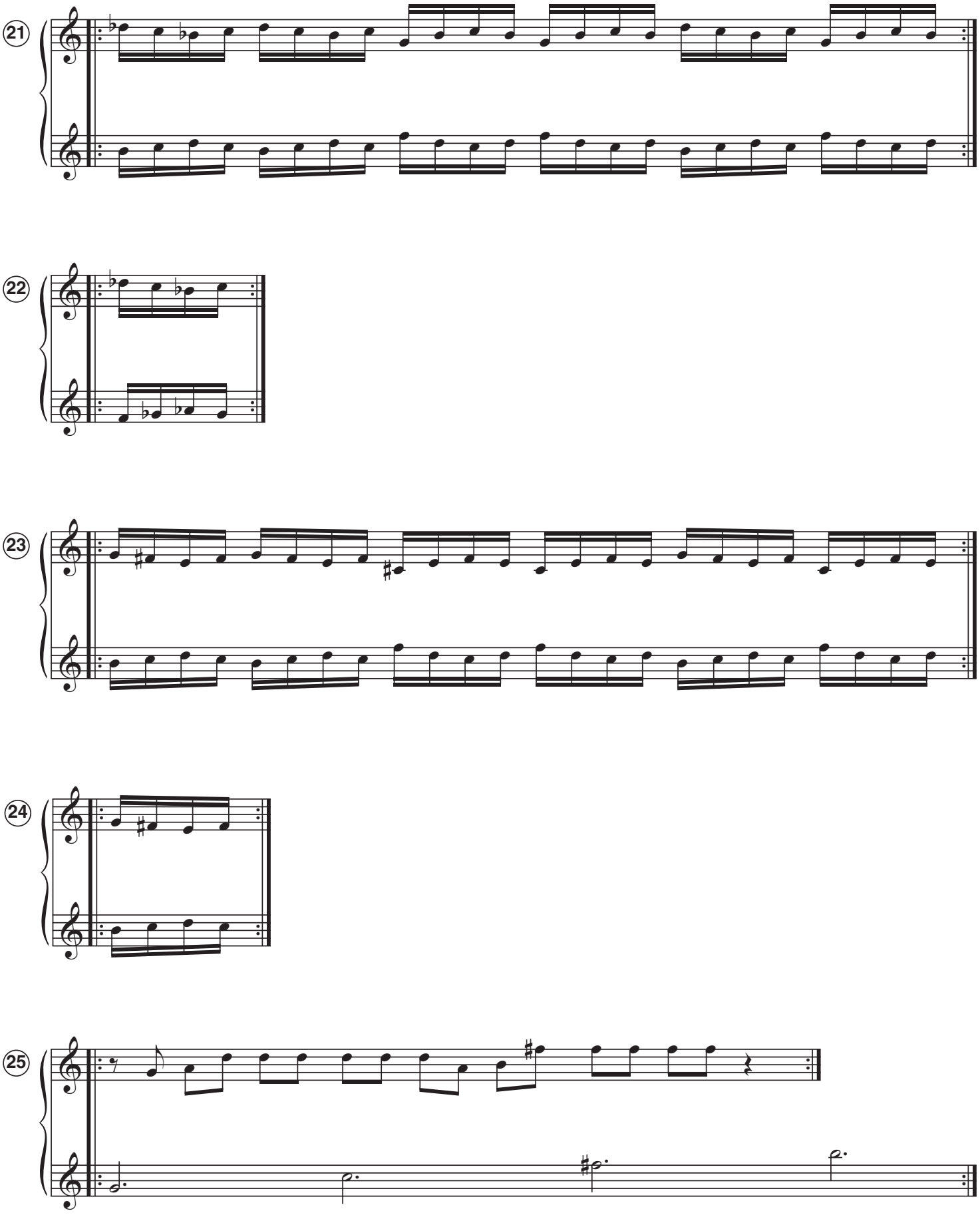
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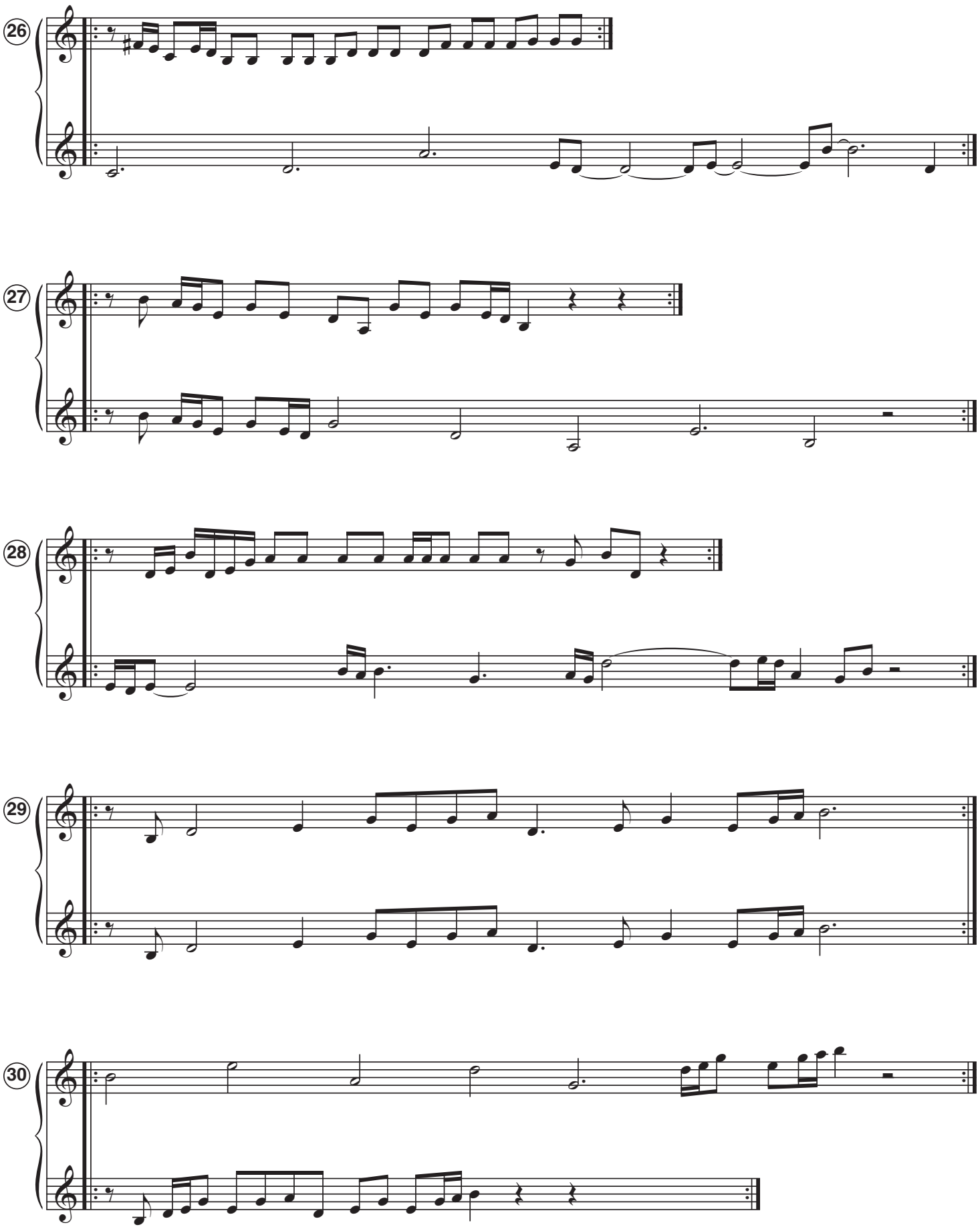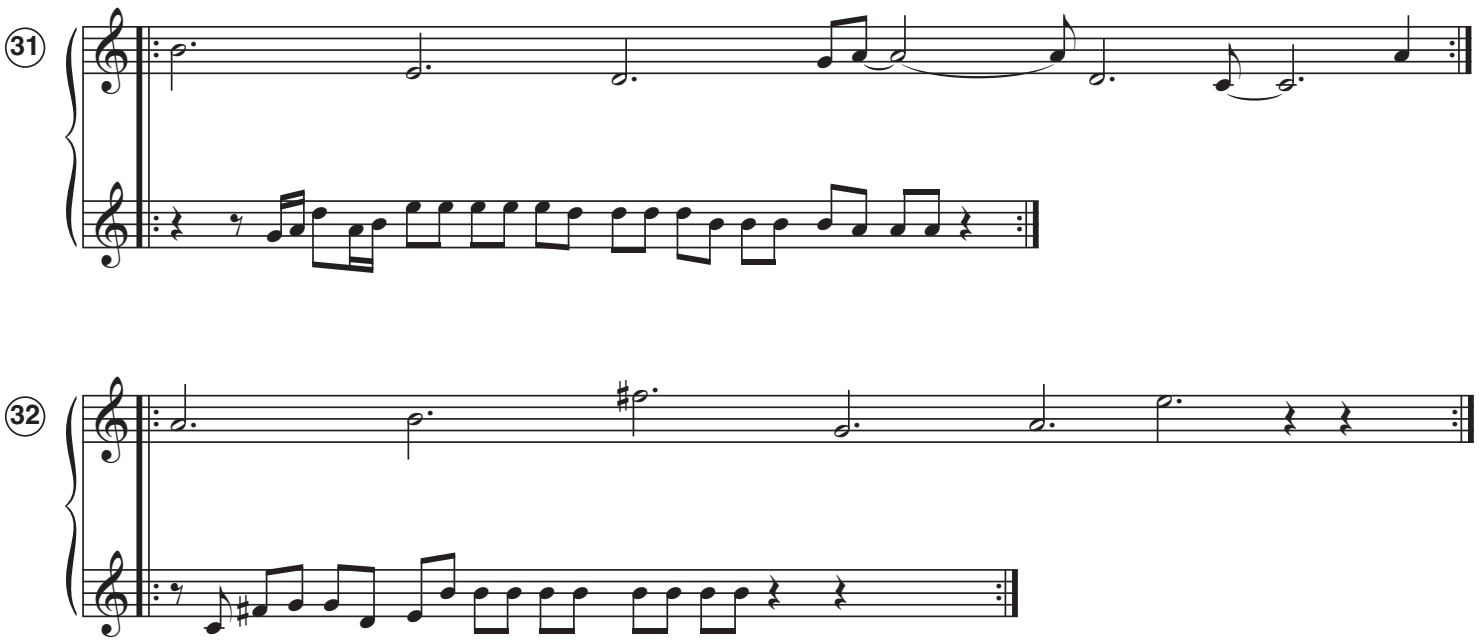
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